

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NKP

CINCPAC

COGARD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

UNCLAS STATE 050531

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 13 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. BECKER (WP) FROM KAMPOT SAYS THAT US MAJOR ONDECKER, OF EMBASSY DAO STAFF, ADVISES FANK DEFENDERS THOUGH OFFICIALLY THERE ONLY TO GATHER INFO. QUOTES FANK OFFICER THAT ONDECKER "ATTACHED TO THIRD (DIVISION) AND NORMALLY WORKS IN THE FIELD WITH THEM, BUT HE IS NEEDED HERE." DESCRIBES ONDECKER AS "IN AND OUT OF THE COMMAND POST, OPENLY RECOMMENDING MILITARY MANEUVERS", SEES CAMBODIANS "OBVIOUSLY PLEASED"  
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WITH HELP AND STATES THAT TACTICAL CHANGES WERE MADE QUICKLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL: ANOTHER FANK BRIGADE WAS CALLED IN, TOP COMMAND WAS REPLACED "WITHIN 24 HOURS", DEFENSE PERIMETER STABILIZED, AND HE

"ARRANGED WITH THE US EMBASSY ON THE MORNING OF THE ATTACK THAT ADDITIONAL GUNSHIPS WOULD BE SENT TO KAMPOT..." BECKER MENTIONS CHUCK BERNARD, ANOTHER "US REPRESENTATIVE" IN KAMPOT ON CIVILIAN MATTERS WHO, ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL WARFARE, "WRITES PROPAGANDA TRACTS WITH ME." SHE COMMENTS THAT US EMBASSY REPEATEDLY DENIES THAT AMERICANS ARE SERVING AS MIL ADVISERS SINCE PROHIBITED BY

LAW, SAYS THAT JUNIOR FANK OFFICERS' ASSERTION THAT AMERICANS ADVISE AROUND PP HAS NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED, BUT IN KAMPOT "IT IS DIFFICULT TO HIDE."

2. GKR REINFORCEMENTS CONTINUE TO ARRIVE IN KAMPOT BY SEA TO BOLSTER DEFENSES AGAINST 3000 REBELS THREATENING TOWN (AP NYT, NYDN). MPS REPORT REBELS HURL GRENADES INTO FANK CENTRAL PAY OFFICE IN PP, KILLING TWO AND WOUNDING 14. POLICE SPOKESMAN SAYS WOMAN GUERRILLA KILLED AFTER ATTACK (REUTER PP).

3. FANK COMMAND REPORTS ROUTE 4 OPEN FROM PP TO KOMPONG SPEU AFTER BEING CUT FOR 10 DAYS (CHITRIB; AP NYT, NYDN; WP; UPI, BALTO N-A 3/12). GKR COMMAND SAYS 175 REBELS, 17 FANK KILLED IN BATTLE TO CLEAR ROUTE 4 TO KOMPONG SPEU (REUTER PP). ROUTE REMAINS CLOSED BY REBELS BETWEEN KOMPONG SPEU AND KOMPONG SOM (AP, NYT; WP; REUTER PP).

4. PP POLITICAL SOURCES STATE FOUR PROMINENT KHMERS, ALL FORMER OR PRESENT GOVT. OFFICIALS, DEFECT IN PARIS TO SIHANOUK. DEFECTORS INCLUDE PRE-1970 MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, ONETIME SENIOR OFFICIAL IN COMMERCE MINISTRY, TAKEO PROVINCE MAGISTRATE, AND OFFICIAL GOVT.-OWNED PETROLEUM COMPLEX. ALL LEFT CAMBODIA IN PAST TWO OR THREE MONTHS (WP; UPI NYT, NYDN; REUTER PP).

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5. US TRANSPORTS FLY TO HANOI TO COLLECT REMAINS OF LAST 11 US SERVICEMEN WHO DIED IN CAPTIVITY. REMAINS TO GO TO THAILAND FOR IDENTIFICATION (REUTER, SAIGON).

6. FIRST FOUR F-5ES ARRIVE AT BIEN HOA AB. "AMERICAN PRESS REPORTS" HAVE SUGGESTED THAT 60 WILL COME IN TO BOLSTER VNAF, AND EVENTUALLY 126 WILL BE IN SERVICE IN SVN TO REPLACE "OLD F-5AS" (REUTER, SAIGON).

7. BUDDHIST LEADER STATES THA SVN POLICE ARREST 142 MONKS IN PAGODA 12 MILES SOUTH OF SAIGON, SAYS DOES NOT KNOW WHY ARRESTS MADE BUT SPECULATES THAT

MIGHT BE LINKED TO ANTI-GVN DEMONSTRATION HELD MONDAY  
IN FRONT OF SAIGON'S CHI HOA PRISON (AP, PHINQ).

8. SVN NEGOTIATORS BOYCOTT SCHEDULED MEETING WITH  
VC TO PROTEST SHELLING OF DELTA SCHOOL THAT KILLED  
32, WOUNDED 56. SVN SPOKESMAN SAYS FAILURE OF VC  
TO REPLY TO GVN NOTE ASKING FOR JOINT INVESTIGATION

LED TO BOYCOTT DECISION (REUTER, NYT).

9. RLG MFA ANNOUNCES THAT DRV AMBASSADOR TO LAOS  
WILL RETURN AFTER NINE-YEAR ABSENCE, PROMPTING SPECULATION  
THAT NEW COALITION GOVT. WOULD BE FORMED SOON (UPI,  
NYT; WP; CHITRIB).

10. WESTMORELAND DECLARES CANDIDACY FOR REPUBLICAN  
NOMINATION IN S.C. GUBERNATORIAL RACE (STEPP, WP;  
NYT; AP, SUN; UPI, NYDN).

#### KOREA

11. LAT'S JAMESON, IN SEOUL, REPORTS ON INTERVIEW WITH  
PREMIER KIM CHONG PIL LAST FRIDAY. KIM SAID ROKG HAS  
LEARNED VIA INTELLIGENCE REPORT FROM THIRD NATION  
THAT UNC WILL BE DISBANDED IN NEAR FUTURE; ADDED  
THAT NK THEN WILL LIKELY FEEL FREE TO CLAIM DISPUTED  
NORTHERN ISLANDS AND WATERS AROUND THEM, BUT MAINTAINED  
SK "WOULD DEFEND AT ALL COSTS" ITS CLAIM TO THREATENED  
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ISLANDS. ON KIM DAE JUNG, HE SAID "FOR THE MOMENT,  
I DO NOT THINK HE WILL BE ABLE TO GET PERMISSION TO LEAVE";  
ASKED WHAT "FOR THE MOMENT" MEANT, PREMIER SAID: "WORLD  
IS FULL OF POSSIBILITIES. ONE CANNOT PINPOINT EVERYTHING"  
(MAR. 9).

12. AFP SEOUL REPORTS ROKG PLANS TO SOLICIT ONE BILLION  
DOLS IN LOANS TO HELP FINANCE HEAVY INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS,  
AT ANNUAL MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC  
CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION FOR KOREA SCHEDULED MARCH  
26-27 IN PARIS (WP).

13. GM, WHICH HAS AUTO ASSEMBLY PLANT THERE, HAS ASKED  
ROKG PERMISSION TO SET UP ENGINE AND BODY PLANTS COSTING  
210 MILLION DOLS, KOREAN AFFILIATE REPORTED TUESDAY  
(AFP, WP).

14. HAPDONG REPORTER, WHO "PICKED UP" OFFICIAL DOCUMENT  
CONTAINING CLASSIFIED MATERIAL FROM OFFICE OF CON-  
SCRIPTION, WAS GIVEN SUSPENDED TWO-YEAR JAIL SENTENCE  
WEDNESDAY FOR "DETECTING" MILITARY SECRETS. REPORTER  
WAS FIRST PERSON CHARGED UNDER TWO-YEAR-OLD LAW ON

PROTECTION OF MILITARY SECRETS, AND WAS ALSO CHARGED WITH THEFT UNDER CRIMINAL LAW (REUTER).

JAPAN

15. REPORTING ON RECENT THREE-DAY CONFERENCE BETWEEN 44 WESTERN US BUSINESSMEN AND 36 JAPANESE COUNTERPARTS, OF JAPAN-CALIFORNIA ASSN., LAT'S JAMESON (IN MIYANOSHITA) SAYS THESE "BANKERS, MANUFACTURERS AND MERCHANDISERS WHO HAD TRADITIONALLY USED SUCH CONFERENCES AS FORUMS FOR COMPLAINTS AGAINST JAPANESE CURBS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT NEVER EVEN BROUGHT UP THE SUBJECT." NOT EVEN JAPANESE PREDICTION OF 3.3 BILLION DOLLARS TRADE SURPLUS PRODUCED "PEEP OF PROTEST" (MOST US BUSINESSMEN "SIMPLY DIDN'T BELIEVE IT"); INSTEAD, FOR FIRST TIME IN

HISTORY OF SUCH MEETINGS, BUSINESSMEN FROM BOTH NATIONS KEPT BUSY COMPARING NOTES ON THEIR NEW, COMMON PROBLEM: OIL CRISIS. CONSENSUS THAT GREW DURING DIS- UNCLASSIFIED

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CUSSIONS WAS THAT JAPAN, "ALMOST IRONICALLY," WOULD COME OUT OF OIL CRISIS "TEN TIMES BETTER OFF" THAN US IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH. IN PRIVATE, CALIFORNIA BUSINESSMEN AGREED THAT JAPAN'S ROARING INFLATION AND SOARING WAGES MAKE IT LESS ATTRACTIVE THAN OTHER COUNTRIES AS AN INVESTMENT TARGET (MAR. 11).

16. CSM'S POND, NYT'S HALLORAN, WP'S OBERDORFER, SUN'S SEIDEN IN TOKYO COVER LT. ONODA'S RETURN TO JAPAN AFTER EMERGING FROM PHIL JUNGLE HIDEOUT AS WARTIME STRAGGLER. IN CONTEXT OF SENSE OF DUTY WHICH IMPELLED ONODA TO REMAIN HOLDOUT UNTIL OTHERWISE ORDERED, HALLORAN AND OBERDORFER NOTE THAT HE RETURNS AT TIME WHEN JAPANESE, PARTICULARLY OF POSTWAR GENERATION, ARE UNEASY AND UNHAPPY ABOUT THEIR VALUES AND MORES. HALLORAN OBSERVES THAT WHILE THEY ENJOY MATERIAL BENEFITS OF HARD WORK, THEY HAVE BEGUN TO DESPISE THE "ECONOMIC ANIMAL" LABEL AND HAVE BEGUN TO BELIEVE THAT JAPAN MUST STAND FOR SOMETHING MORE, THOUGH FEW SEEM TO KNOW JUST WHAT; ONODA SEEMS TO HAVE STIMULATED THAT SEARCH. CITES MAINICHI EDITORIAL THAT "ONODA'S UNYIELDING AND RESOLUTE ATTITUDE MAY BE BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF THE PRESENT-DAY GENERATION SO USED TO LIVING IN MATERIAL AFFLUENCE. TO THIS SOLDIER, DUTY TOOK PRECEDENCE OVER HIS PERSONAL SENTIMENTS." EDITORIAL CONCLUDED: "ONODA HAS SHOWN US THAT THERE IS MUCH MORE IN LIFE THAN JUST MATERIAL AFFLUENCE AND SELFISH PURSUITS. THERE IS THE SPIRITUAL ASPECT, SOMETHING WE MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN." OTHER NEWSPAPERS MADE SIMILAR POINTS, ACCORDING HALLORAN. HALLORAN ALSO NOTES ANOTHER GENERAL REACTION TO ONODA'S RETURN: NOTHING IN ONODA'S

SAGA SHOULD BE USED TO GLORIFY MILITARISM; VAST MAJORITY OF JAPANESE REMAIN OPPOSED TO THAT.

17. FEB. WHOLESALE PRICES UP 37 PER CENT FROM YEAR AGO, 3.9 PER CENT FROM JAN. MORE THAN HALF OF RISE DUE TO "OVERSEAS FACTORS" (AP, NYT).

18.- MOTOROLA AGREES IN PRINCIPLE TO SELL ITS HOME TELEVISION RECEIVER BUSINESS TO MATSUSHITA FOR CASH. TV ACCOUNTS FOR 17 PER CENT OF MOTOROLA SALES, BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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PROFITS FALLING IN RECENT YEARS. MATSUSHITA WILL CONTINUE

TV OPERATIONS UNDER "QUASAR" BRAND NAME, RETAIN MOST AMERICAN EMPLOYEES (WSJ; NYDN; HAMMER, NYT).

19. KAISER RESOURCES LTD (OF US AND CANADA) SAYS JAPANESE CUSTOMERS AGREE TO PERMIT HIGHER COKING-COAL PRICES. ALLOWABLE PRICE ADJUSTMENTS CEILING JUMPS FROM 80 CENTS TO \$2.06 A TON (WSJ).

20. CAPTURE OF 18 YEAR OLD WHO HIJACKED JAL JUMBO JET TO OKINAWA WIDELY COVERED. YOUTH APPARENTLY WANTED \$55 MILLION FOR "EARTH RESEARCH". 426 PEOPLE ON BOARD PLANE SET HIJACKING RECORD.

CHINA

21. SUN'S KEAT CITES DOS SPOKESMAN'S EFFORTS TO TAKE "STING" OUT OF HAK'S "SHARP REMARKS" MONDAY (AT WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS PRIVATE MEETING) ABOUT CONTINUING US DIFFICULTIES WITH OUR ALLIES COMPARED TO EASED RELATIONS WITH ERSTWHILE ADVERSARIES. KEAT CONTENTS THAT MANY DIPLOMATS HERE AND IN EUROPE, IN REMARKS USUALLY INTENDED AS CRITICISM OF HAK, FOR SOME TIME HAVE BEEN POINTING TO EASE WITH WHICH SECRETARY HAS IMPROVED RELATIONS WITH PRC AND SOVIET, IN CONTRAST TO INCREASINGLY CONTENTIOUS DEALINGS WITH NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AND JAPAN.

22. PRC OBSERVER TOLD UN POPULATION COMMISSION HIS GOVT. TAKES ISSUE WITH IDEA OF GLOBAL POPULATION GUIDELINES, THEME OF WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE IN ROMANIA NEXT AUGUST. TELLS COMMISSION IT IS "INAPPROPRIATE AND UNFEASIBLE" FOR CONFERENCE TO ATTEMPT TO LAY DOWN UNIFIED REGULATIONS, SINCE POPULATION POLICY, TARGETS, CENSUSES AND STATISTICS ARE EACH COUNTRY'S PRIVATE AFFAIRS (AP WP, BALTO N-A MAR. 12).

EA GENERAL

23. GETLER (WP) SAYS COMMENTS AT SASC HEARINGS BY  
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CLEMENTS AND MOORER SUGGESTING POSSIBLE USE OF DIEGO GARCIA AS B-52 BASE CAUSE SENATE AND STATE DEPT. CONCERN. CLARIFICATION--THAT DG WILL NOT BE USED BY B-52S--EASES PROBLEM. GETLER SAYS PLANNED EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA HAS ALREADY CAUSED CONTROVERSY IN INDONESIA, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, INDIA, AND CEYLON.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

THAILAND

24. EX-FSO JOHN TAYLOR (CSM MAR. 12) NOTES EXISTENCE OF POWER VACUUM IN THAILAND SINCE STUDENT-LED UPRISING LAST OCT; ASKS, "WHO IS TO RULE?" OVER THE MIDDLE TERM, THAILAND'S COURSE MAY BE SET BY COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF FASHIONING NEW CONSTITUTION, WHICH HAS FORMIDABLE PROBLEMS. OLD REGIME PAID LITTLE MORE THAN LIP SERVICE TO NEED FOR LAND REFORM, AND PLIGHT OF LANDLESS PEASANTS HAS BEEN BOON TO COMMUNIST-ORIENTED INSURGENTS IN BORDER AREAS. UNDER NEW CONSTITUTION, GOVT. EXPECTED TO LIMIT AMOUNT OF LAND UNDER SINGLE OWNERSHIP, AND MAY EVEN BE EMPOWERED TO SEIZE LAND NOT UNDER CULTIVATION. SHAPE OF THAI INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES MUST BE EQUALLY PERPLEXING TO CONSTITUTION-FRAMERS: A HODGE-PODGE OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, GOVT. MONOPOLIES, JOINT VENTURE INVOLVING WEALTHY ARMY OFFICERS. HERE COMMITTEE WILL PROBABLY BE UNDER PRESSURE TO TAKE NO ACTION THAT WILL DETER FOREIGN INVESTMENT OR UNDULY ANTAGONIZE ARMY. IN FOREIGN POLICY, THAILAND WILL LIKELY PURSUE MORE INDEPENDENT COURSE. OVER LONG TERM, FOREIGN POLICY WILL BE DETERMINED AS MUCH IN PEKING AS IN BANGKOK OR WASHINGTON. "IF CHINA APPEARS GENUINELY DESIROUS OF DETENTE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, ANY GOVERNMENT IN BANGKOK WILL BE UNDER PRESSURE TO REDUCE THAILAND'S DEPENDENCE ON THE UNITED STATES. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER EVEN A NEUTRALIST GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO SEE THAILAND WITHOUT ALLIES IN THE SOUTHEAST ASIA OF THE '70'S."

THAILAND/PHILS/INDONESIA

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25. LAT'S FOISIE (MARCH 10) IN BANGKOK SAYS INDO WAR "BROUGHT MANY CHANGES IN ADJOINING THAILAND - THE MAJOR BASE FOR US AIR OPERATIONS AGAINST INSURGENTS - AND SOME OF THE IMPACT HAS BEEN FOR THE GOOD." REPORTS

THAT ENCOURAGED BY US AND UN AGENCIES, RTG IS NOW BEGINNING TO USE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND OTHER DETECTION METHODS FROM SKY TO DETERMINE CROP YIELDS, ESTABLISH BEST ROUTES FOR IRRIGATION CANALS, DETECT ILLEGAL LUMBERING, GAUGE TIME FOR RUBBER TREE REPLANTING, AND - IN 10-YEAR PROJECT JUST BEGINNING - PRECISELY MAP ALL OF THAILAND TO ESTABLISH EXACT LAND OWNERSHIP. DESCRIBES SOPHISTICATION ACHIEVED BY THAI TECHNICIANS IN USE DATA FROM US EARTH RESOURCE TECHNOLOGY SATELLITE

AS WELL AS PIX TAKEN FROM AIRCRAFT. HOWEVER, WHILE THAI TECHNICIANS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT BOTH HIGH AND LOW-LEVEL "EYES IN THE SKY," THAI LEADERS ARE SENSITIVE ABOUT SOME SUGGESTED AERIAL RECON PROJECTS; RTG HAS DELAYED FOR YEAR APPROVING AERIAL SURVEY OF OPIUM POPPY FIELDS. FOISIE STATES THAT REQUEST FOR THIS TYPE OF CROP ESTIMATION WAS MADE BY US AND UN OFFICIALS SEEKING TO INTRODUCE SUBSTITUTE CASH CROPS TO OPIUM-GROWING HILL TRIBES.

26. FOISIE OBSERVES THAT DESPITE CLOSER RELATIONS WITH US, PHILS ARE FAR BEHIND THAILAND IN USE OF AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY. ESTIMATING RICE CROP YIELD PRIOR TO HARVEST STILL DONE BY "UNSCIENTIFIC" SAMPLE INTERVIEWS WITH 15,000 FARMERS.

27. LUZON HAS NOT EVEN BEEN COMPLETELY AERIALLY MAPPED IN RECENT YEARS. WITH MARCOS PROMISING MEANINGFUL LAND REDISTRIBUTION TO END TENANT-FARMING, QUICK MEANS OF PROVIDING OWNERSHIP TITLES TO NEW FARMERS IS ESSENTIAL NEED. US AID MISSION UNDERTAKING TO COMPLETE AERIAL MAPS AS TEMPORARY TITLE DOCUMENTS AND USN AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN PRESSED INTO MAKING RECON FLIGHTS TO COMPLETE JOB. ONLY 5 PERCENT OF INDONESIA HAS HAD ANY "RESOURCE" EXPLORATION MADE BY AIRCRAFT. FOREIGN FIRMS ARE NOW ENGAGED IN THIS WORK BUT ALMOST ENTIRELY FOR THEIR OWN ACCOUNT (FOISIE).  
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JAPAN

28. BLOSSAT (S-N MAR.12) IN TOKYO OBSERVES THAT INFLATION-RELATED PRICE RISES IN INDUSTRIAL WORLD HAVE NOT IN TOO MANY CASES DEPRESSED DEMAND FOR THEIR MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS. IN STEEL, FOR EXAMPLE, JAPANESE EXPORTS STILL GOING WELL AND FUTURE REMAINS BRIGHT; THREE STEEL COMPANIES PLAN EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION FACILITIES LATE THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT. FUJI BANK CHAIRMAN THINKS SOME LIMIT IS NEEDED ON GROWTH OF ALUMINUM INDUSTRY, HEAVIEST POWER USER, BUT NOTES THAT DEMAND IS GREATER THAN EVER. DEMAND FOR PRODUCTS OF PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRY GOING OUT OF SIGHT; NO

ONE FORESEES DROP IN DEMAND FOR PETRO-CHEMICALS EXCEPT  
IN POORER SEA LANDS WHOSE UNDERDEVELOPMENT LEAVES  
THEM WITH TOO LITTLE PURCHASING POWER. FUJI BANKER  
THINKS INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND PHILS ARE BETTER ABLE  
TO WEATHER PRICE STORM. ASSERTS THAT GOJ TIGHT MONEY  
POLICY IS EVIDENTLY SUCCEEDING IN DEPRESSING DOMESTIC  
CONSUMER DEMAND SUFFICIENTLY TO HAVE SOME BENEFICIAL

EFFECT ON INFLATION. BUT PRODUCERS MANAGE TO KEEP  
OUTPUT FAIRLY LEVEL WHILE ECONOMIZING ON POWER.  
CONSEQUENCE IS THAT JAPANESE TRADING FIRMS AND OTHER  
LEADERS ARE COUNTING ON BOOSTING EXPORTS OF EXCESS  
OUTPUT NOT CONSUMED DOMESTICALLY.

INDOCHINA

29. CSM SEES SIGNIFICANCE IN HANOI HANDING OVER  
POW REMAINS, SAIGON AND THE COMMUNISTS FINALLY COMPLETING  
PRISONER EXCHANGE. THESE EVENTS TEND TO CONFIRM  
REPORTS OF RECENT HANOI POLICY DECISION TO GIVE TOP  
PRIORITY TO RECONSTRUCTIO

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BIEN HOA  
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HONG KONG  
NHA TRANG  
JEC PARIS  
USSAGE NKP  
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